

REMARKS

Claims 61-62 and 66 are canceled without prejudice. All of the independent claims are currently amended. Claims 88-90 are new. Claims 2-9, 12-46, 48-60, 64-65, 67-73, 75-78, and 80-90 are pending.

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Interview Summary

Applicant's attorney, Michael Colby, wishes to thank Examiner Steven Sax for telephonic interviews on February 8th, 2007, and March 6th, 2007.

During the interview and in the interest of expediting allowance of the application but without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicant's attorney submitted proposed amendments to the independent claims. Applicant's attorney understood the Examiner to agree that the pending independent claims as amended are allowable over the art of record. The Examiner indicated, however, that he may need to perform another search and would like to see the amendments in writing before sending the application on the issuance.

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Accordingly, the claims are amended herein in the manner discussed with the Examiner. If any issues remain that would prevent the allowance of the application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

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Previously Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-9, 12-40, 48-62, 67-78, and 80-87 were previously indicated as allowable. In the current action, the Office withdraws this allowability, stating "[p]reviously indicated allowability [of these claims] is regrettably withdrawn in view of the aforementioned rejections".

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Non-Statutory Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 2-9, 12-46, 48-62, 64-73, 75-78, and 80-87 stand rejected based on claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,948,135. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are patentable over claims 1-32 of the above-cited patent.

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§ 102 Rejections

Claims 2-9, 12-46, 48-62, 64-73, 75-78, and 80-87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) allegedly as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,107,539 to Abbott et al.

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Applicant amends all of the independent claims as noted above. Based on these amendments and the aforementioned interview, Applicant understands that the Office considers all of the claims allowable over the art of record.

Conclusion

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All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowability. If the Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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By: /Michael K. Colby/
Michael K. Colby
Reg. No. 45,816
(509) 755-7254